

REMARKS

Claims 16-19, 21-25 and 30-37 remain pending after amendment.

Claim Amendments

By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 8-15, 20 and 26 are cancelled. The limitations of claim 20 are added to claims 16 and 30. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Acceptable Drawings

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's acceptance of the drawings submitted on January 17, 2007.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter of claims 20-25. However, applicants believe that all pending claims are directed to allowable subject matter in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Rejection of Claims 1, 4, 8-16, 18, 26 and 29-37 under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1, 4, 8-16, 18, 26 and 29-37 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abouav '653 in view of Dixon '911. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response, the limitations of allowed claim 20 are added to independent claims 16 and 30. Rejected claims 1, 4, 8-15 and 26 are now canceled from the application. The rejection is thus moot and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 19 under 35 USC 103(a)

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abouav '653 in view of Dixon and Hill et al '438. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, it will be noted that claim 19 depends from claim 16. As discussed above, claim 16 is amended to incorporate the limitations of allowed claim 20. The rejection is thus moot and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 3 and 17 under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 3 and 17 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Abouav '653 in view of Dixon and Jones. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In response, claim 3 is canceled. Claim 17 depends from claim 16, which is amended to incorporate the limitations of allowed claim 20. The rejection is thus moot and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early indication of same earnestly is solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Raymond C. Stewart (Reg. No. 21,066) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Payment in the amount of \$1050.00 is submitted herewith as payment for the requested three month extension of time.


Application No.: 10/509,119

Docket No.: 0446-0172PUS1

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: October 16, 2007

Respectfully submitted,


RCS/PWH/ej

By


Raymond C. Stewart

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